

Specification Amendments

[0011] The invention can be described as a retractable reel apparatus comprising a housing, a reel rotatably disposed in the housing wherein the reel has a cylindrical portion, and a wire having a first portion disposed around the cylindrical portion and a second portion disposed inside the cylindrical portion. Preferably, the first portion of the wire is wrapped in a first direction, and the second portion of the wire is wrapped in a second direction. The first and second directions are preferably opposite one another, and the first and second portions of the wire are interconnected by a substantially 180° bend or loop. Stated in another way, the second portion of the wire ~~[[are]]~~ is counter-wrapped with respect to the first portion of the wire. This is sometimes referred to herein as a “traversing wire loop configuration.”

[0015] The second portion of the wire is at least partially positioned in a slot defined in the cover. A cover ~~[[inset]]~~ insert covers at least a portion of the slot.

[0055] In this way, it is not necessary to try to stab reel spring tab blindly into ~~[[out]]~~ outer end 72 of spring 54 which would be very difficult if not impossible.

[0058] When wire 76 is positioned in housing 20, wire guide 58 on reel 52 extends into annular gap 84. An outermost section 85 of second portion 80 of wire 76 adjacent to bend 82 is passed through narrow gap 62, inside of outer arcuate tab 63, into gap ~~[[64]]~~ 60 and around the outside of inner arcuate tab 64. As best seen in FIG. 7, this locks wire 76 in place on reel 52 so that bend 82 rotates with the reel.

[0063] Cover 96 has a recess or slot 126 formed therein. Recess 126 is generally shaped like a lowercase letter "b" having a curved portion 128 and a straight portion 130. Curved portion 128 is contiguous with part of central opening 100 in cover 96. It will be

seen that straight portion 130 is bounded in part by segments of concentric ribs 102, 104, 106 and 108. Second end 94 of wire 76 lies flatly within recess 126 and is covered by a cover insert 132 which has an outer perimeter substantially the same shape as recess 126 and is adapted to fit within the recess. A lip ~~[[104]]~~ 134 on cover insert 132 fits adjacent to a groove 136 formed along the edge of recess 126. A central post 138 extends inwardly on cover insert 132 and is substantially coaxial with hub 34 in housing 20. Post 138 defines a hole 140 axially therethrough which is aligned with hole 38 in housing 20. As seen in FIG. 4, a fastener 142, such as a self-tapping screw extends through hole 140 in cover insert 132 and threadingly engages hole 38 in housing 20. The head of fastener 142 fits in cylindrical recess 144 in cover insert 132. It will be seen by those skilled in the art that the outer surfaces of cover 96 and cover insert 132 are substantially coplanar and flush.